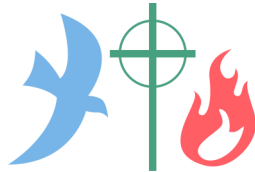


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October  
 2023

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper  
 will be celebrated Sunday, October 1, 2023,  
 World Communion Sunday.

*All are welcome to the table.*



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

This fall season, as the leaves become colorful, and the warm air transitions to cooler, crisper temperatures we at First Presbyterian Church, Glendale have some celebration in store for you. With our Kirking of the Tartans service on October 8, at 10:30AM, we will be marking and celebrating the historical beginnings of the Reformed tradition. Fear not! This will not be an academic worship service, and there will be no test.

Those of us (and there are so many) with Scottish, Irish or Welsh ancestry are somewhat familiar with the connection of tartans with these cultures. It’s generally understood that in Scotland one’s official tartan connects mainly with the family surname. In Ireland, more so in the northern or Protestant section of the country, tartan usually relates to geographical location. In Wales this is also the case.

As Reverend Lang has explained, the Kirking service is observed in an array of modern faiths, now, not just Reformed churches. It is a joy-filled celebration of one’s cultural traditions.

We have planned for you a lively service of bagpipe music and the display of many tartans. If you secretly thrill to the sound of a bagpipe (and this writer is guilty as charged) please plan to attend! If you are aware of your family’s tartan please wear it or bring it along with pride. Even if you don’t claim any Gaelic-derived genes we welcome you to this joyous celebration with open arms. Bring along that neighbor of yours who is always boasting about his or her plaid-related roots. And by all means stay for the irresistible shortbread cookies!

***Inside this issue ...***

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# From the Minister's Desk

The story is related that at a Christmas service, a minister called the children forward and led them over to the large nativity scene positioned by the chancel with the intention of discussing the crèche and its characters. Asking young children questions in front of a congregation can present its own risks, but this particular minister was young and confident. He discussed Joseph, and Mary, the wise men, and cattle, and the angel hovering over the top of the stable. Pointing at the angel, the minister asked, "Why do you think the angel is here?" Of the children, one little fellow aged 4 offered his response. He replied: "Because somebody nailed him there." The story offers the concluding axiom: When it comes to angels, that answer may be as good as any.

Angels make appearances in a number of Bible stories. They appear and disappear. They enter stage left, say their piece, perform their task, and exit stage right.

In scripture, angels are God's announcers or messengers. The word '*angelos*' in New Testament Greek means 'messenger.' Angels speak God's message to human ears. Without angelic explanations, Christmas would have been the bare story of the birth of a child to a young mother and Easter morning more ambiguous and uncertain.

On one hand, the Bible presents angels as wholly unlike human

beings. Their appearance inspires more awe or fear than comfort, at least at first. Of necessity, an angel's greeting often begins, 'Do not be afraid.'

On other occasions and in different circumstances, the Bible's angels look more or less like you or me. Angels drag Lot and his family from doomed Sodom, and eat an afternoon meal with Sarah and Abraham. Mark describes the angel at the empty tomb as, 'a young man.' An angel shakes Peter awake in his prison cell in the Book of Acts. The Letter to the Hebrews encourages hospitality by reminding us that 'some have unwittingly entertained angels.' That angels might be among us seems to be hinted at.

Whatever angels may or may not be in the Bible's Story, the fact that their task has to do with communicating the divine message to human beings is suggestive. The function of angels as messengers of God hints that maybe we might all find occasion to be angelic. When we share a word of kindness or encouragement or do something that helps another person, we are acting the role of an angel.

Dawna Markova tells a story in *No Enemies Within: A Creative Process for Discovering What's Right About What's Wrong*. "When I was in the hospital, the one person whose presence I welcomed was a woman who came to sweep the floors with a large push broom. She was the only one who didn't stick things in, take things out, or ask stupid questions. For a few minutes each night, this immense Jamaican woman rested her broom against the wall and sank her body into the turquoise plastic chair in my room. All I heard was the sound of her breath in and out, in and out. It was comforting in a strange and simple way. My own breathing calmed. Of the fifty or so people that made contact with me in any given day, she was the only one who wasn't trying to change me.

One night she reached out and put her hand on the top of my shoulder. I'm not usually comfortable with casual touch, but her hand felt so natural being there. It happened to be one of the few places in my body that didn't hurt. I could have sworn she was saying two words with each breath, one on the inhale, one on the exhale: "As... Is... As... Is..."

On her next visit, she looked at me. No evaluation, no trying to figure me out. She just looked and saw me. Then she said simply, "You're more than the sickness in that body." I was

(continued on page 6)

# DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan Armstrong, Marianna Briner, Jane Johnson, and Susy Spence (moderator).



Diane and Mike  
 William  
 Levi  
 Susan  
 baby Michael  
 the people of Hawaii  
 the people of Florida



*Meet the Staff*  
**the Rev. Jeffrey Lang**

**Amy**  
 Director of Music and Organist  
**Kate**  
 Choir Director and Vocalist  
**Logan**  
 Vocalist

**Paisley**  
 Videographer  
**Deborah**  
 Administrative Assistant  
**the Rev. Dr. Dawn Vagle**  
 Parish Associate

Items for the **November** edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, October 23.**

Early submissions are joyfully accepted!

*Submitted information will be edited for clarity, accuracy, and length.*



# Women's Book Club

All women are invited to bring your favorite morning beverage and gather in the church library at 10:00AM each month.

Wednesday, November 8

*The Giver of Stars*, by Jojo Moyes



Based on a true story, this is a breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond in Depression-era America. These heroic women refused to be cowed by men or by convention and became known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky. They are committed to their job of bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

Wednesday, October 11

*A Long Way Home*,  
by Saroo Brierley



At only five years old, Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. Unable to read or write or recall the name of his hometown or even his own last name, he survived alone for weeks on the rough streets of Calcutta before ultimately being transferred to an agency and adopted by a couple in Australia. However, even though he was grateful for his adopted family, Brierley always wondered about his origins and pursued a search to find his original family against incredible odds. This story reveals how he conducted his tedious and seemingly impossible search.



Wednesday, December 13

Organizational meeting  
to choose books for 2024.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

*The Lost Apothecary*, by Sarah Penner



Women across 18th Century London whisper of a mysterious figure named Nella who sells well-disguised poisons from a secret apothecary shop to use against the oppressive men in their lives. But the apothecary's fate is jeopardized when her newest patron, a precious 12-year-old, makes a fatal mistake which sparks a string of consequences that echo through the centuries. Meanwhile, in present-day London, an aspiring historian stumbles upon a clue to the unsolved apothecary murders that haunted London 200 years ago. *The Lost Apothecary* is a debut novel of secrets, vengeance, and the remarkable ways women can save each other despite the barrier of time.

# Mission in Motion...

Dave C and Brad M delivered an additional 50 pounds of goods to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) in August. This brings your year-to-date contribution to 1256 pounds. Keep up the good work!



## *Remember ...*

...our monthly food offerings are now accepted any day of the month, not just on the third Sunday.

Dave will delivery your generous donations to VICRC early in the next month, and then new items will appear in the basket in the Narthex and on the table in the Church House.

In each month's *Messenger*, you will find an update on those deliveries, both in a month and year-to-date amount (pounds).

Every day is a day to 'reach out'. Thank you to everyone who continues to help our neighbors in need!



The Mission committee recently provided support totaling \$500.00 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund for Maui victims.



## *It's almost time to fill Thanksgiving Boxes!*

As is tradition, we will provide food to accommodate a family of 5. The boxes will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, October 29. Each box will contain a list of items in the quantity needed. We respectfully request that you followed the list exactly as printed. (If you wish to provide additional items—a loaf of bread, napkins, etc. [no milk or other items with a short shelf life] you may place them in the Narthex.) Your Mission committee will add a \$25.00 Kroger gift card, and the church will add a holiday greeting.



Filled boxes should be returned to the Narthex on or before Sunday, November 12. Glendale police officers will collect the boxes in time for distribution the week of Thanksgiving.





# October Birthdays and Anniversaries

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Pam and Ken .....    | 3  |
| Carolyn .....        | 6  |
| Paisley .....        | 12 |
| Katie and Will ..... | 12 |
| Robert .....         | 30 |

Wednesday, October 11

*A Long Way Home*, by Saroo Brierley  
See page 4 for details.



### Men's Lunch



All men are invited to gather for lunch at Gold Star on Springfield Pike in Springdale, Wednesday, October 11.

Fellowship begins when you arrive; lunch begins at 12:30PM.



## From the Minister's Desk *continued*

pretty doped up, so I wasn't sure I understood her; but my mind was just too thick to ask questions.

I kept mumbling those words to myself throughout the following day, "I'm more than the sickness in this body. I'm more than the suffering in this body." I remember her voice clearly. It was rich, deep, full, like maple syrup in the spring.

I reached out for her hand. It was cool and dry. I knew she wouldn't let go. She continued, "You're not the fear in that body.

You're more than that fear. Float on it. Float above it. You're more

than that pain." I began to breathe a little deeper, as I did when I wanted to float in a lake. I remembered floating in Lake George when I was five, floating in the Atlantic Ocean at Coney Island when I was seven, floating in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa when I was twenty-eight. Without any instruction from me, this Jamaican guide had led me to a source of comfort that was wider and deeper than pain or fear.

It's been fifteen years since I've seen the woman with the broom. I've never been able to find her. No one could remember her name; but she touched my soul with her compassionate presence and her fingerprints are there still."

The Bible's angel stories might encourage us to believe that our lives can communicate God's love to other people. When we share the message of the gospel in word or deed we act out the role of an angel. May we find the opportunity to be messengers of God's grace and comfort.



# October

This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes.

Check the website  
([firstpresbyterianglendale.org](http://firstpresbyterianglendale.org))  
for the most accurate calendar.

Please contact the church office with  
calendar updates.

| Sunday  | Monday                                   | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday                            | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------|--|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1<br><br>10:30AM-<br>Worship | 2<br>2:00PM-<br>Squirrely<br>Stitchers   | 3       | 4  | 5<br>6:30PM-<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal  | 6      | 7        |
| 8<br>10:30AM-<br>Worship<br><i>Kirking of<br/>the Tartans</i>   | 9<br>9:00AM-<br>Session<br>Reports due   | 10      | 11<br>10:00AM-<br>Women's<br>Book Club<br>12:30PM-<br>Men's Lunch<br>6:00PM-<br>Session mtg. | 12<br>6:30PM-<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal | 13     | 14       |
| 15<br>10:30AM-<br>Worship   | 16<br>2:00PM-<br>Squirrely<br>Stitchers  | 17      | 18   | 19<br>6:30PM-<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal | 20     | 21       |
| 22<br>10:30AM-<br>Worship   | 23<br>9:00AM-<br>Newsletter<br>items due | 24      | 25   | 26<br>6:30PM-<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal | 27     | 28       |
| 29<br>10:30AM-<br>Worship<br><i>Thanksgiving<br/>boxes<br/>available</i>                                      | 30                                       | 31      |  |                                     |        |          |





**First Presbyterian Church  
of Glendale**

155 East Fountain Avenue  
Glendale, OH 45246

513-771-6195  
glenpres@fuse.net  
firstpresbyterianglendale.org

the Reverend Jeffrey Lang

Worship begins at 10:30AM  
Sunday, September 10, 2023 through  
Sunday, June 2, 2024.

Worship begins at 10:00AM  
Sunday, June 9, 2024 through  
Sunday, September 8, 2024.

***Church Office Hours***

Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM  
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM  
The office is *closed* every Friday.

Shared with you in Christian love



**Kirking of the Tartans**

On October 8, we will celebrate the rich heritage of Scottish Presbyterianism. The Rev. Ken Cuthbertson in his book, *The Last Presbyterian*, describes himself as being from the "Psalm-singing, Sabbath-keeping, Shorter-Catechism-memorizing branch of Presbyterianism." Those descriptions are fairly accurate for most of historic Presbyterianism as it arrived on the shores of America from Scotland.



Emigrating to what became the United States, pioneer Scots of various convictions and backgrounds - the stalwart Covenanters, the conscience-driven Seceders, and others - helped to shape Christian faith and national culture in their adopted land. They were the frontiersmen and women, farmers, adventurers, soldiers, politicians, theologians, ministers, and teachers who constituted the vanguard of a developing nation.



Whether or not we trace our genealogy to Scotland, are cradle Presbyterians, or united with a Presbyterian congregation later in life, there exists for us a living legacy that continues to shape faith and practice in the 21st Century that originated long ago amid the lowlands, highlands, and islands of Scotland. We will honor that inheritance in the Kirking of the Tartans service as we 'bless the tartans.'